

June 28, 1947.

Dr. A.J. Weil,
Lederle Laboratories,
Peral River, N.Y.
Dear Dr. Weil,

Thank you very much for having sent your manuscript on type transformations in Shigella. I am returning it herewith, with apologies for my tardiness: it was temporarily mislaid.

While we are having considerable success in reproducing the transformation from ^{an} aerogenic to aerogenic E. coli, which I discussed at Cold Spring Harbor, Dr. Tatum and I feel that it would be quite useful to at least have in our hands strains of your transforming pairs. We should appreciate very much therefore, your sending them to us, as you indicated you might at the symposium. For the time being we would be more interested in the biochemical transformations you noted in the II - V system, but I hope that we shall, at a later date, be able to impose upon you for some of the mono-specific absorbed serums.

Concerning terminology, again, I notice that you adopted my suggestion that the expressions 'coupled' or 'associated' be substituted for linked, in view of the special genetic connotations of the latter. However, 'linked' has not been replaced at several points in your manuscript, i.e., pp. 5, and 6. This may be a fortuitous accident in this copy, but I take the liberty of calling it to your attention.

You may be interested that I have not been able to find any indication that either of Boivin's strains could ferment sucrose. I am inclined to the view that he may have encountered fortuitous mutants which were sucrose positive in his original description. In view, further, of his own scepticisms concerning the apparent transformation from suc⁺ to suc⁻, I

appears to me that there is no authentic precedent for the 'coupled' transformations which you describe. This is all the more reason that ~~that~~ the *Shigella* system should be studied .

Thank you also for your reprint. May I add that I have long been interested in your immunological and epidemiological work, and would greatly appreciate reprints of any of your publications atht are available.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg.